REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to limit the hardening agent to an acid anhydride hardening agent, as suggested by the Examiner, thus rendering moot the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Support for this amendment is found on page 19, line 25 to page 20, line 8 of Applicants' specification. Claim 1 has been further amended to add the proviso that when m is 1, any one of R^1 to R^4 and any one of R^5 to R^7 are combined together to form a lower alkylene group which forms a heterocyclic ring containing two phosphorous atoms.

Claim 2 has been amended to delete the phosphonium compound identified as option (c). As a result of this amendment, option (d) is now identified as option (c) in the claim. Claims 1-3 have been amended to make minor changes of an editorial nature, in order to place the claims in more conventional U.S. format.

The patentability of the present invention over the disclosure of the reference relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

Thus, the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogata et al. (US 3,637,572), further illuminated by CAPLUS accession no. 1971:43048 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner takes the position that Ogata et al. show a mixture of 100 parts by weight of an epoxy resin, methylenedomethylene-tetrahydrophthalic anhydride and 1 part by weight of p-xylenebis(triphenylphosphonium tetraphenyl borate) conforming to claimed formula (I) wherein one of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is $-CH_2$-phenyl-CH_2-P^+Ph_3. The Examiner further asserts that the radical $-CH_2$-phenyl-CH_2-P^+Ph_3 conforms to formula (II) wherein R^8, R^9, R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen, A is a phenyl group, n=1, m=1 and R^5, R^6 and R^7 are phenyl groups.

However, as discussed above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to insert the proviso that when m is 1, any one of R^1 to R^4 and any one of R^5 to R^7 are combined together to form a lower alkylene group which forms a heterocyclic ring containing two

phosphorous atoms. Therefore, p-xylenebis(triphenylphosphonium tetraphenyl borate) has been excluded from Applicants' claim 1.

The Examiner further asserts (in item 3 on page 3 of the Office Action) that p-xylenebis(triphenylphosphonium tetraphenyl borate) is within the ambit of phosphonium compound (a) of claim 2. Applicants respectfully disagree. Phosphonium compound (a) of Applicants' claim 2 requires that m = 0. On the contrary, in order for p-xylenebis(triphenylphosphonium tetraphenyl borate) to read on Applicants' recited formula, m must be 1. (See the last line of item 2 on page 3 of the Office Action.) Therefore, it is clear that p-xylenebis(triphenylphosphonium tetraphenyl borate) does not fall within phosphonium compound (a) of Applicants' claim 2. Rather, this compound falls within phosphonium compound (c) of Applicants' claim 2, which has been deleted from the claim.

For these reasons, the invention of claims 1-3 and 5 is clearly patentable over Ogata et al.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 18, 2006